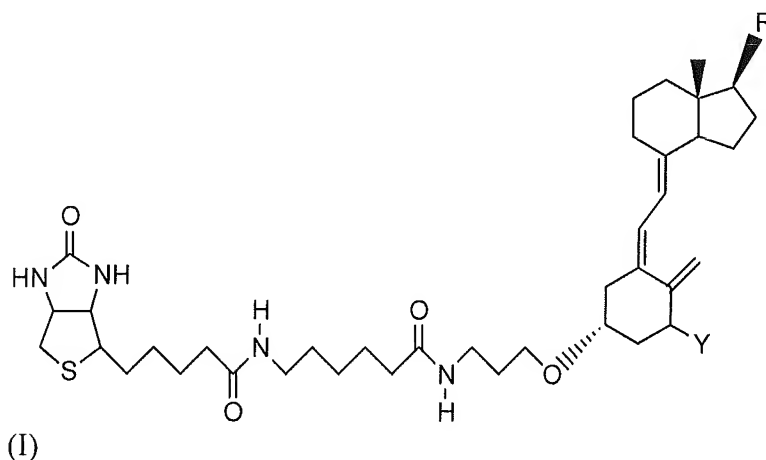


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of measuring the amount of α -25-hydroxy vitamin D metabolite, ~~and~~ $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite ~~or both~~ in a sample using a competitive protein binding assay, ~~wherein comprising measuring displacement of a vitamin D derivative~~ derivative of formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein is measured and the ~~vitamin D derivative displaces a~~ by 25 -hydroxy-vitamin D or $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite ~~or both from the vitamin D binding protein,~~

wherein a displacement efficiency of approximately 1 is obtained by using a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



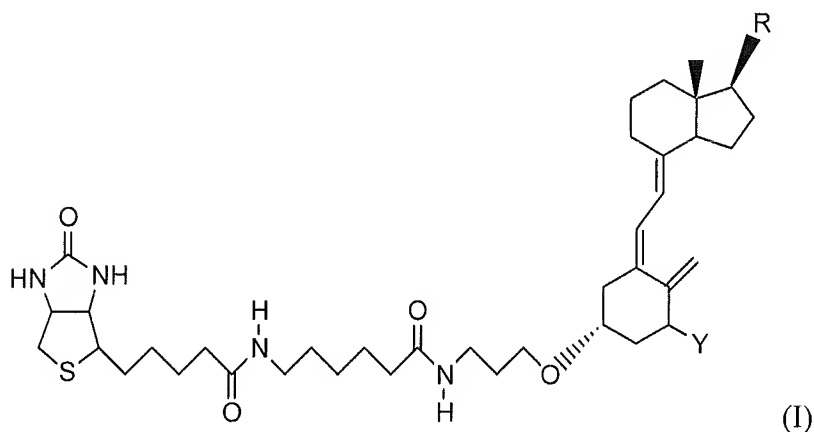
wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D₂ or of vitamin D₃;

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;

and ~~wherein the measurement of correlating the measurement of displacement of a the~~ vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from a the vitamin D binding protein in the sample ~~is correlated to the measurement of displacement of a the~~ vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from a the vitamin D binding protein using a known quantity of the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) to determine the amount of a- 25 -hydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite, and~~ $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite or both~~ in the sample.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the method is a competitive immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of radioimmunoassay, enzyme immunoassay enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, luminescence immunoassay and fluorescence immunoassay.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the method is sandwich immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of immuno radiometric assay, IEMA/EIA, immuno luminometric assay and immunofluorometric assay.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A kit for detection of 25-hydroxy-vitamin D or ~~1 α~~ /25-1 α , 25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolites~~ or both in a sample on by ~~basis of~~ a competitive protein binding assay, wherein displacement of a vitamin D derivative of the formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein is measured and the vitamin D derivative displaces ~~a~~ 25-hydroxy-vitamin D or 1 α ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D ~~metabolite~~ from the vitamin D binding protein, comprising a standardized quantity of a solid vitamin D derivative of formula (I) or a standardized solution of a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D₂ or of vitamin D₃;

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. **(Original)** The kit of claim 4 comprising a solid phase selected from the group consisting of a microtitration plate, another solid carrier, a microparticle, a polymeric material, and a cellulose.

8. **(Original)** The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a microparticle comprising agarose.

9. **(Original)** The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a magnetic microparticle.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said competitive protein binding assay is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme immunoassay, an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, a radio immunoassay, an immunoradiometric assay, a luminescence assay, a fluorescence immunoassay and an immunofluorometric assay.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein Y is hydroxy.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The kit of claim 4 wherein Y is hydroxy.

14. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the 25-hydroxy vitamin D is removed from the sample before performing the competitive protein binding assay.

15. **(New)** The method of claim 1, in which an antibody that specifically binds $1\alpha,25$ -dihydroxy vitamin D is used in the competitive protein binding assay.